

FACT SHEET

AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

TODAY'S ACTION

- On December 22, 2005 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to provide states with additional flexibility in the way they collect and report air pollutant emissions data. EPA is also proposing to eliminate the emissions reporting requirement for biogenic emissions. State and local agencies would be required to adopt the definition of a point source as specified under Title V of the Clean Air Act.
- This action provides flexibility in how agencies submit certain air emission data to EPA. Rather than entering their emissions data directly, state and local agencies may choose the option of reporting the inputs to certain emissions models, e.g., MOBILE. EPA would use the model inputs to calculate states emissions and would enter the data in to the National Emissions Inventory (NEI).
- Today's proposal would accelerate the reporting of emissions data to EPA by the state and local agencies. EPA is proposing that beginning in 2008 emissions reports would be due 12 months after the end of the year instead of the current 17 months. Beginning in 2011, the reports for point sources would be due in six months, and nonpoint and mobile sources would continue to be due in 12 months.

BACKGROUND

- An emission inventory is a tabulation of all of the sources of air pollutant emissions and the emissions from these sources in a given area. Emission inventories are fundamental building blocks used to develop air quality control strategies on a local, regional and national level. Emission inventories are also used to track accountability and assess air quality program effectiveness.
- The purpose of the proposed amendments is to offer options for data collection and exchange and to unify reporting dates for various categories of inventories. Previous reporting requirements have, at times, forced reporting agencies into inefficient collecting and reporting activities. The proposed amendments eliminate some emissions reporting requirements and provide options for collecting and reporting other emissions related data; this will reduce the burden to report required emissions data to EPA. The proposed amendments would consolidate the emission inventory reporting requirements found in various parts of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Most of the main provisions of today's proposal were originally proposed as part of the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking for the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) on June 10, 2004. EPA received a number of comments on the emissions reporting related provisions of the supplemental proposal. A number of commenters said that EPA should conduct a separate rulemaking on the emissions reporting provisions and not combine these

with the emissions control provisions in CAIR. The commenters wanted EPA to give specific notice that changes were being proposed to the emissions reporting requirements and to allow a longer comment period. EPA has decided to re-propose these requirements in the form of today's amendments to allow for a comprehensive review by all interested parties.

HOW WOULD THE AMENDMENTS AFFECT THE NATIONAL EMISSION INVENTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE QUALITY OF THE DATA?

- The information supplied by this streamlined emissions reporting requirement would improve EPA's ability to compile a national inventory of air pollutant emissions of known and consistent quality and make it available to the public and policy makers sooner.
- Clarifying and consolidating reporting requirements and providing options for complying would increase the efficiency with which state and local programs are able to operate.

WOULD THERE BE COST SAVINGS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

- The proposed amendments would reduce the reporting burden on state and local governments by eliminating certain emission reporting requirements and offering flexibility in reporting either emissions input data or reporting the emissions directly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Anyone with access to a computer and the internet may download the proposed rule directly through the World Wide Web at: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief>) or (www.epa.gov/interstateairquality). For further information about the proposed amendments, contact Bill Kuykendal at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5372.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on many air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).